

MEDIA RELEASE



**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
October 31, 2006**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DAVID L. HUBER
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
Western District of Kentucky**

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**ELEVENTH MARIJUANA DEALER PLEADS GUILTY
AS PART OF THE ONGOING INVESTIGATION INTO
A MAJOR MARIJUANA TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION**

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that **JOSH TURNER**, age 25, of 6218 Winding Stream Drive, Louisville, Kentucky, **plead guilty** to conspiring with Benjamin Schwartz, John Warner and others to distribute 100 kilograms or more of marijuana in and around Louisville between April 1, 2004 and December 31, 2004 and conspiring with others to possess with the intent to distribute 100 kilograms or more of marijuana in and around Louisville between July 26, 2006 and July 27, 2006.

The maximum penalty is life in prison, an \$8,000,000 fine and up to life on supervised release. There is a mandatory minimum sentence of ten years. **There is no parole in the federal judicial system and Turner is not eligible for probation.**

Turner admitted that between April 1, 2004 and December 31, 2004, he, along with Benjamin Schwartz, John Warner, and others, conspired to possess and distribute marijuana in and around Louisville, Kentucky. Specifically, **Turner** supplied Schwartz with approximately 400 pounds of marijuana between April 1, 2004 and December 31, 2004. The marijuana had a street value of approximately \$400,000.

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Additionally, **Turner** admitted that he conspired with others to possess with the intent to distribute 100 kilograms or more of marijuana between July 26, 2006 and July 27, 2006. A drug courier was stopped by law enforcement in Kansas City, Missouri, with approximately 225 pounds of marijuana headed for Louisville, Kentucky. The drug courier agreed to cooperate with law enforcement. Under the supervision of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), the drug courier delivered the marijuana to the intended recipient, **Josh Turner**. **Turner** took possession of the marijuana from the drug courier. He was immediately arrested by DEA. The marijuana seized had a street value of approximately \$225,000.

Schwartz and Warner previously pled guilty and were sentenced to 17 years and 15 years respectively in federal prison. Schwartz and Warner admitted to being the leaders of a large drug organization that operated in and around Louisville from approximately January 1, 2000 to March 15, 2005. The Schwartz and Warner marijuana trafficking organization distributed approximately 6000 pounds of marijuana. The approximate street value of 6000 pounds of marijuana is between \$6,000,000 and \$8,000,000.

Michael Kennedy was sentenced to 5 years in federal prison for his part in the marijuana conspiracy on September 7, 2006. Brad Richardson, another dealer in the drug ring, was sentenced to 3 years and 5 months in federal prison on September 1, 2006. On August 21, 2006, Robert Heuser was sentenced to 5 years in federal prison for his part in this marijuana trafficking conspiracy. On August 14, 2006, Robert Morrow was sentenced to 2 years and 11 months for his part in this marijuana trafficking conspiracy. On April 13, 2006, Frank Thomas was sentenced to 2 years for his part in this marijuana trafficking conspiracy. On March 6, 2006, Dennis Dahl was sentenced to 11 years and 8 months for supplying Robert Morrow with marijuana as part of this marijuana

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trafficking conspiracy. On February 10, 2006, Dale Jackson was sentenced to 2 years for his part in this marijuana trafficking conspiracy.

Turner's sentencing is scheduled for February 2, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. in United States District Court in Louisville, Kentucky before the Honorable Charles R. Simpson III.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Brian Butler, and it was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Louisville Metro Police Department.

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